

in southern Indiana by constructing reservoirs at Brookville, Patoka and elsewhere. The emphasis today is on building or extending water and sewer lines. My office spends hundreds of hours each year helping towns and cities throughout the district apply for the grants and loans to get these projects going, and we have had remarkable success getting our fair share of assistance from state and federal sources.

#### HOSPITALS, LIBRARIES AND SCHOOLS

I have attended scores of dedications for improvements made in southern Indiana's libraries, schools, and hospitals, many of them completed with the help of federal grants and loans. I experience genuine satisfaction as I reflect on the improvement each facility makes in the quality of Hoosiers' lives.

#### RECREATION

Southern Indiana is blessed with some of the most scenic areas in the Midwest, and has long been a tourist destination. I have worked to promote recreational opportunities, including: creation of the Muscatatuck Wildlife Refuge as well as the new Charlestown State Park; expansion of the Hoosier National Forest; construction of the Falls of the Ohio River Park and Interpretive Center, with its access to the ancient fossil beds on the Ohio River; and creation of a new Ohio River Greenway linking the communities of New Albany, Clarksville, and Jefferson.

#### LESSONS LEARNED

The past 34 years have provided many lessons in how to promote economic development. First, local officials must take the lead in planning for new development and attracting new businesses. Second, there must be a strong local emphasis on building a skilled workforce, including investment in our schools, vocational programs, and workplace training initiatives. These efforts will be particularly important in coming years as global competition for well-paying jobs intensifies. Third, our state must place a high priority on improving infrastructure. The highway bill currently pending in Congress will significantly boost Indiana's share of federal highway dollars and help address many unmet highway needs. Fourth, we must focus on encouraging our young people and entrepreneurs, never forgetting that the backbone of the Indiana economy is small business, which employs more than 2 million Hoosiers.

And lastly, even with its flaws, government will always be an important part of the economic equation. My experience in Congress has taught that good government at all levels can make our communities more competitive and our lives more pleasant. It can never replace individual Hoosiers' skill, hard work and creativity, but it can help lay the groundwork for successful development efforts, develop through education and training the needed skills in the workforce, build vital infrastructure, and help leverage limited funds to attract investors to our region.

#### HONORING E. DUANE THOMPSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

#### HON. J. DENNIS HASTERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man whose years of service to the citizens of my District cannot be overstated.

Dewey Thompson, for the past thirty-two years, has led the Association for Individual Development with both excellence and com-

passion. The Association serves individuals of all ages who are developmentally and/or physically disabled or mentally ill, and Dewey Thompson has played a critical role in meeting the needs of these individuals and their families. A former teacher and counselor, Dewey joined AID in 1966 as its President, and since then the Association has grown to include more than thirty programs and serves more than 1,400 clients annually.

I do not have the time to read off a list of Dewey Thompson's accomplishments and the awards he has received, but it is symbolic of his esteem within the community that AID's Rehabilitation Center was renamed in his honor in 1991.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you and my colleagues to join me in honoring Dewey Thompson for his years of service to the people of Illinois and my District, and wish him the best on his retirement.

#### WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP HEALTH CARE DISTRICT MEETING HEALTHCARE NEEDS IN THE 13TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize The Washington Township Health Care District which has provided 50 years of service to the community of Fremont, California.

Half century ago, a group of civic minded citizens created the Washington Township Health District in the belief that healthcare is just as much a matter of public duty and public financing as is public education.

The District opened Washington Hospital, a 150 bed facility, within 10 years. Washington Hospital has been providing superior health care services for the past 40 years; the Hospital has grown right along side the community and has consistently been able to meet the needs of our community.

The founding members of the Board had the foresight to envision that returning profits to the Township, in the form of services and programs, would benefit the community more than profits being distributed to shareholders outside the District. In addition, the creation of a publicly elected Board of Directors provided ongoing community access to the governance of the District.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in recognizing Washington Township Health Care District for the service it provides to meet healthcare needs in our community.

#### TRIBUTE TO BROWNIE TROOP #434 KEY WEST, FLORIDA

#### HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Brownie Troop No. 434 from Poinciana Elementary School in Key West, Florida. The troop received the community award in the 1998 Make a Difference Day

Awards on April 19th from USA Weekend, a nationally distributed publication.

Make a Difference Day, an annual event held on the fourth Saturday of every October, was started in 1992 by USA Weekend and The Points of Light Foundation. The Poinciana Troop first participated in their event in 1996 by holding a school-wide food drive which succeeded in collecting 692 cans.

The troop's original goal was to collect 1,000 canned goods and recruit 13 businesses to volunteer as collection sites. They surpassed their goal last October 25th by collecting 2,213 items of food for St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and enlisting the participation of sixty-five businesses.

The Poinciana Elementary School Brownie Troop No. 434 is composed of 13 young girls, ages 6 to 8 who are: Katherine Albury, Allison Baker, Yanessa Barroso, Diana Baucom, Britney Bethel, Alexandria Caballero, Claire Dolan-Heitlinger, Espi O'Dell, Brittany Rogowski, Melissa Roos, Amanda Talbott, Andrea Wells, and Sheri Yuest. The troop is led by Troop Leader Dawn Albury. As their congressman, I am proud to represent such socially-conscious young girls. I am sure the citizens of Key West join me in wishing them continued success in 1998.

#### A TRIBUTE TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL CHURCH

#### HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in West Allis, Wisconsin on the celebration of its 60th Anniversary as a congregation.

The dream of having a church where the needs of the area Italian speaking community could be met began in the 1930's for a group of about 250 Italian-Americans. But several attempts to rent space for worship did not prove successful, and in 1938, members of the Italian community began to work to raise funds to build a church of their own.

On September 21, 1939, the dream was realized, as Father Raymond Leng was named as the church's first administrator, and the parish began its official existence. The Sisters of Charity of St. Joan Antida also took up residence near the church and have since provided religious training to many generations of children from Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

Father Leng served the congregation until 1946, and was succeeded by Father Salvatore Tagliavia, who served until 1956. Father Albert Valentino then became administrator, and remained with the congregation for nearly 35 years until his death in 1991.

The present administrator, Father James Posanski, was appointed in 1991. Since then, the church has undergone several renovation projects, the parish council was reorganized, and a number of spiritual and social activities were reintroduced to the congregation.

In 1992, the local Korean community began having bi-weekly masses at Our Lady of Mount Carmel. And, as interest in these masses grew, Father John Mace, S.J. soon introduced weekly worship for the Korean-American community.

Sadly, however, in December of 1996, due to a shortage of priests and declining numbers

of parishioners, the Catholic Archdiocese announced the closing of Lady of Mount Carmel and several other area churches. The parish's final date for services will be July 12, 1998, the Feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel.

The church's diamond anniversary celebration was moved to May of 1998, to give the congregation time to properly celebrate the history and life of their beloved parish community. Although the coming months may present a great many challenges as decisions are made concerning the future of this congregation, please join me in celebrating the 60 wonderful years of this devoted and faithful parish.

May the Lord bless them on whatever paths their futures hold.

TRIBUTE TO QUINN CHAPEL AFRICAN  
METHODIST EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church of Sumter, South Carolina. This Church has provided a means of worship to the Sumter community for one hundred and fifty years, an anniversary which underscores the important role the Church plays in the Sumter community. It was my great honor to worship with the congregation March 15th as they celebrated this momentous occasion.

The precise date of the Church's construction is unknown. The building was originally erected in the first half of the nineteenth century, but Quinn Chapel African Methodist Church was burned to the ground a few years ago later when the adjacent school building caught fire. In the absence of a physical church building, members used a "bush shed" for worship. Rebuilt in 1864, the Church stood for the next 98 years until 1962.

A new sanctuary was erected in 1964 under the leadership of the Reverend B.J. Johnson, and in 1993, the Memorial Hall was added under Reverend H.H. Felix. Family and friends of the Church provided leadership and funds for the initial building phase, and the Hall was dedicated in September of 1993. In January 1996, renovation of the sanctuary and bathroom facilities was completed under Reverend F.J. Gadson, whose vision of an enlarged sanctuary and new educational building was realized in October of 1996.

Throughout the physical changes, Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church has held true to its mission to be an outreach ministry that provides support and relief to the disheartened, disadvantaged, and disenfranchised. The Church continues to serve the Sumter community by being a loving ambassador for Christ.

I ask that Congress join me in showing true appreciation for Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church as it continues to play such an important role in South Carolina, guiding Christian men, women, and children in their daily lives. The Sumter community is indebted to the Church, as the gift of love is difficult to repay. I congratulate the Quinn Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church as it reaches a landmark One Hundred Fiftieth Anniversary.

IN DEFENSE OF ORGANIC  
STANDARDS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the USDA on its decision to revise the proposed rule on national organic standards.

On December 16, 1997, the USDA published a proposed rule for national organic standards that would have undermined some of the basic tenets of organic farming. USDA wisely requested comment from the public on its proposal. The organic industry instantly mobilized and circled its wagons around the widely accepted, although uncoded, standards that the industry has been following for decades. Organic farmers and consumers wanted to protect the standards behind the label they trust.

The USDA received 200,000 comments on its proposed rule, largely because of the efforts of organic farmers, consumer advocates, and industry groups which publicized the holes in the rule and urged people to voice their concerns. I applaud the efforts of those who have worked to protect the integrity of the organic label. I would like to thank Rep. DEFAZIO for organizing a letter to Secretary Glickman urging him to work with the organic industry to bring the rule more into line with current standards and consumer preferences. And I commend the thirty-five of my colleagues who signed the letter.

Finally, I congratulate Secretary Glickman on his decision to revise the proposed rule. In a press release dated May 8, Secretary Glickman noted that "If organic farmers and consumers reject our national standards, we have failed." I couldn't agree more. Consumer expectations and preferences have driven the organic market to where it is today, earning over \$3 billion in sales. Strict organic standards that reinforce current practices and promote consumer preferences will help the market grow even more.

I look forward to reviewing the revised proposal from USDA and to working with my colleagues and the organic industry to ensure that our national organic standards are meaningful and conform to consumer expectations.

MARISA ERDMAN, VOICE OF  
DEMOCRACY CONTEST WINNER

**HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE**

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 13, 1998*

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call the attention of the House to the work of Marisa Erdman of Millsboro, DE. Marisa is Delaware's State winner of the Veterans of Foreign War's Voice of Democracy script writing contest and has been named a national winner and recipient of a \$1,000 scholarship award from the VFW. I congratulate Marisa, her family, and VFW Post 7422 in Millsboro, DE for sponsoring this excellent program.

As my colleagues know, the VFW has sponsored the Voice of Democracy Competition for 51 years to promote patriotic and civic respon-

sibility among our young people and to help them attend college through the scholarship awards. The competition requires students to write and record a 3 to 5 minute essay on a patriotic theme. This year, over 93,000 secondary school students participated in the contest on the theme: "My Voice in our Democracy." I am very proud to share with the House, Marisa's excellent essay on the need for young people to be involved in their community, to gain knowledge, and to use their experience as a voice in our democracy.

Again, congratulations to Marisa, the Erdman family, and the members of the VFW Post 7422 for their fine work.

"MY VOICE IN OUR DEMOCRACY"—1997-1998  
VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP  
COMPETITION

(By Marisa Erdman)

The Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, California, which was once the world's largest bridge, attracts hundreds of thousands of West Coast tourists annually. Each day, millions of travelers cross the Kanmon Bridge between the Japanese islands of Honshu and Kyushu. With a length of 4,626 feet, the Humber Bridge in eastern England is the longest single span bridge in the world. What do these three famous bridges have in common? They are all suspension bridges in which towers holding long steel cables support the roadway. And although the towers serve as the main structures, it is the bridge's many individual cables that provide the strength needed to sustain the weight crossing the bridge.

A democracy, such as that of our United States, because of its design is much like a suspension bridge. Democracy serves as the backbone of our nation's strength supporting the weight of natural disaster, economic recession, war, and change. Our forefathers crossed from the shore of oppression and tyranny into the promise land of choice and freedom. The principles and spirit of democracy are the towers serving as the basis for all other ideas that branch from our government. The individuals who comprise and fuel our government with their voices and insights serve as the cables that lift our great nation. Without several of its cables, a bridge will stand and function, however it will not prove as sturdy and may eventually collapse. Just as a democracy without the contribution of all its voices will still run, it will not be a true representation of the wants and needs of the people.

But how can I make my one individual voice heard? Because of my young age, I often feel that I am unable to play an important role in our democracy. But like many people, I keep the spirit of democracy alive by being active in my community. Millions of teenagers like myself volunteer in programs such as Big Brothers and Big Sisters and participate in food drives, benefit walks, and charity fundraisers in an effort to help those in need. By being involved in organizations such as the Student Government Association and by furthering my education, I can familiarize myself with the workings, ideas, and functions of our government. Through actions such as this, I have begun to keep the spirit of our democracy alive and thriving by dedicating my time, energy, and ideas.

In the future, I can make my individual voice heard by supporting the principles of our democracy in louder ways. I can support the plans and ideas of politicians by casting my vote for the candidate I feel will best satisfy my needs. Above and beyond that, I have the opportunity to represent my fellow citizens by serving on community councils or by holding political office. Like the millions of